

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application. Claims 1-8 and 10-14 are rejected. Claim 9 is objected to but would be allowable if placed in independent form. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 2 and 13 to add the limitations of claim 9, thereby making all of the remaining claims allowable. Claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Moreover, the addition of the limitations of claim 9 to independent claims 1, 2 and 13 is merely for purposes of obtaining immediate allowance of the application and without concession as to the relevance of the prior art or the patentability of the original claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8 and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inokuchi et al (4,284,596). This rejection is traversed on the basis of the amendment to claims 1, 2 and 13 that incorporate the limitations of claim 9.

Claim 9, which the Examiner finds allowable, specifies that the linear saturated polyester is a recycled product of a recovered PET-based aromatic polyester molded product. This is consistent with the purpose of the invention, which is to provide a process that can increase the molecular weight of a crystalline polyester that has a heat history from previous molding, so that enhanced processability and quality of manufactured products can approach that of the products made with virgin pellets. The addition of this subject matter to independent claims 1, 2 and 13 would overcome the prior art on the basis of the Examiner's indication of allowability for claim 9.

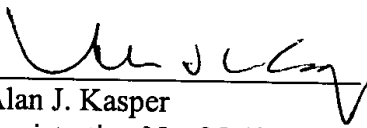
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/787,627

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX SHOWING CHANGES TO CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 9 has been canceled.

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for producing a foamed article by first making modified polyester resin pellets having increased swell of 5 to 200% and JIS melt flow rate (MFR) of not more than 50 g/10 minutes measured at 280°C by preliminary heating a mixture comprising (a) 100 parts by weight of a recycled product of a recovered polyethylene terephthalate-based aromatic polyester molded product~~[linear saturated polyester]~~, (b) 0.1 to 10 parts by weight of a mixture as a coupling agent of 0 to 100% by weight of a compound having two epoxy groups in the molecule, and 100 to 0% by weight of a compound having more than two epoxy groups, and (c) 0.01 to 5 parts by weight of a metal salt of a carboxylic acid as a coupling reaction catalyst to a temperature greater than the melting point of said polyester, and secondly heat foaming said modified polyester resin using a foaming agent.

2. (Amended) A method for producing a foamed article comprising; heating in an extruder a mixture comprising (a) 100 parts by weight of a recycled product of a recovered polyethylene terephthalate-based aromatic polyester molded product~~[a linear saturated polyester]~~, (b) 0.1 to 10 parts by weight of a mixture as a coupling agent of 0 to 100% by weight of a compound having two epoxy groups in the molecule and 100 to 0% by weight of a compound having more than two epoxy groups, and (c) 0.01 to 5 parts by weight of a metal salt of a carboxylic acid as a coupling reaction catalyst, to a temperature greater than the melting point of said polyester to make a modified polyester resin having increased molecular weight, melt viscosity and swell; injecting a foaming agent into said modified polyester resin in said extruder; and heat foaming the modified polyester resin.

13. (Amended) A method for producing a foamed article comprising; heating in an extruder a mixture comprising (a) 100 parts by weight of an undried recycled product of a recovered polyethylene terephthalate-based aromatic polyester molded product [~~linear-saturated polyester~~] melted at a temperature above the melting point thereof, and deaerated to less than - 600 mmHg, (b) 0.1 to 10 parts by weight of a mixture as a coupling agent of 0 to 100% by weight of a compound having two epoxy groups in the molecule and 100 to 0% by weight of a compound having more than two epoxy groups, and (c) 0.01 to 5 parts by weight of a metal salt of a carboxylic acid as a coupling reaction catalyst to a temperature greater than the melting point of said polyester to make a modified polyester resin having increased swell of 5 to 200% and JIS melt flow rate (MFR) of not more than 50 g/10 minutes measured at 280°C; injecting a foaming agent into said modified polyester resin in said extruder wherein the foaming agent is dissolved in the modified polyester resin under pressure and cooling; and releasing the modified polyester resin into the atmosphere through a die of said extruder.